

This must be the start of the new day to come. Rev. Sconiers (Mrs. Goodwin's pastor) of St. Marks A.M.E. Church will let us have a mass meeting there on ~~Friday~~<sup>Wednes-</sup> day night.

Monday July 19, 1965

Early this morning Leon received a call from the post master here in Troy. It seems that ~~will~~ some of our ~~phoned~~ hand bills were put into mail boxes, and so we owed the post office some money. This is the big day, registration day.

In Pike county a person can only register on the first and third monday of each month. Sometime during the year, the county has open registration which simply means, for five consecutive days, a person can come in an register between the hours of nine and four. That open registration took place the week before we arrived. Only five people came down to register.

Ned and Leon were stationed at the court house along with one of the workers from Brundidge. People were there early and in an orderly fashion, but they had to wait because a court was in session. By eleven o'clock there were nearly two hundred people to be processed. As the people came in they were given numbers. Mr. Gilchrist, the chief registrar, told Leon they would only be able to process about twenty of the people today. With a little mental pressure applied from Leon, fifty people were taken care of. Only nine passed. Mr. Gilchrist said he was not authorized to give additional days, but that at a meeting in Montgomery which was to take place on Friday, ~~and~~ <sup>would</sup> he <sup>try</sup> to get extra days. ~~at that meeting~~ Mr. Gilchrist said he was shook up to see so many people there, and he would try to get additional days for registration. Leon in turn called the office and told us not to bring any more people down, because they would not be processed. This was around 11:00A.M.,. The office was also told if individual people wanted to come down, they could, but explain the situation to them. Mr Gilchrist was told that we would march on the court house if we felt we were not given some co-operation, and by no means did we want to have demonstrations, but if <sup>it</sup> became necessary we would.



This evening we had our first mass meeting in Troy. We had a much larger crowd than we had anticipated. After the meeting Deacon Boyken, Mrs Smith, and Deacon Money got together and agreed to let us use Morning Star church for a mass meeting. They were very pleased with Rev. Harroll and wanted to extend an invitation to him and his wife to attend a gospel musical.

J Tuesday July 20, 1965

This morning, we passed out hand bills in the West End section of town announcing the mass meeting at St. Marks church. we were suppose to canvas in the rural areas, but our transportation failed to arrive. The remainder of the day was spent cleaning the house. Leon paid the post master \$2.00 for fifty hand bills that were put in some mail boxes, and was warned not to let that happen again.

Wednesday July 21, 1965

Ned, Jim, Willie, Eddie, and I canvased Orian, Seco, Montecello, Lindwood, China-grove, and Shady Grove and returned home to go to the mass meeting ~~in~~ at St. Marks church. Our next stop was Morning Star church for the musical.

Thursday July 22, 1965

We took as many volunteers as we could find and canvased the ~~neighborhood with~~ neighborhood to announce the mass meeting at Morning Star church the next evening. Tonight we had a birthday party for Liz and a fairwell celebration for Ned.

Friday July 23, 1965

A very large attended our meeting at Morning Star church. Liz went home for the weekend.

Saturday July 24, 1965

Ned Moore left for Los Ageles with the understanding that he ~~must~~<sup>must</sup> return~~ed~~ by August 1, 1965 or <sup>if not</sup> he should stay in L.A.

Mr Gilchrist said he would let us know Wednesday if we could have all of <sup>the</sup> next week for registration.



✓  
Sunday July 25, 1965

Today we all attend different churches. Rev. Duncomb of St. Paul A.M.E. church plans to talk with the steward board and will let us know via Mrs Fields on tuesday if we might use the church for a meeting saturday. Dan talked with the deacons at Bethel Baptist church who were in favor of having a meeting there. The deacons said they would talk with the pastor next sunday and would then let us know the results.

Mrs Mathews and her sister Mrs Smith invited us over for supper. Since we first met them, they have been a tremendous help to us, and they have apparently been very active in the community.

✓  
*Leon ~~would~~ went Hartford, Ala. (Geneva County) to speak at Rex Antry's church. Rex Harroll could not make appointment and asked to fill in for him.*  
Monday July 26, 1965

Eddie, a volunteer worker from Brundidge, said someone called and said he would be beaten up if he continued to carry those civil rights workers around.

Dan and I, along with two volunteers canvased Spring Hill. There is a church there named Elan Baptist, and we talked with a deacon Larkin about using it for a meeting. Sometime during the week someone had broken out the windows, and therefore he said he would hesitate to let us use it for civil rights purposes. He said, however, he would go along with whatever the chairman of the deacon board said.

✓  
At Henderson we wanted to get the use of Mt. Zion church, and a William McNeal of Troy is to be contacted.

Deacon Seymore in Goshen suggested we bring Rev Harroll or Leon out to talk with the deacon or the pastor who were holding out against the use of the church. Another mass meeting in Brundidge tonight. Rev. Harroll said we are going to get a car of our own tomorrow.

✓  
Tuesday, July, 27th

Leon and I went to talk with Deacon Seymore and Deacon Brantley. I do not believe Deacon Brantley will change his mind, however we invited both deacons and their wives to attend our next mass meeting.



✓ Wednesday July 28, 1965

Mr. Gilchrist called to say we would be able to have the six extra days starting tuesday. Later this afternoon Mr. Gilchrist called to say we would not have the extra days or even monday our regular day because the new registration forms were not ready, and they had no idea when they would be ready. Leon told him that he would not be responsible for the peoples actions now, and that he had been able to keep things in check because it seemed that Troy was really trying to co-operate with us. Leon said, "I'll leave it up to your imagenation what will happen when our people find out".

We called Pat in Brundidge, and arranged to meet early tomorrow morning to ~~exp~~ plan the strategy for a march on the court house monday and the following days until better arrangements could be made for voter registration.

✓ Thursday July 29, 1965

John drove Leon and me to Brundidge. When we arrived there was a call for Leon from Troy. Mr Gilchrist wanted Leon to come to a meeting with Judge Reeves, the Chief of Police, and himself. Pat and Leon drove back to Troy and about one hour later called to say that registration would be on the regular monday and tuesday thru saturaday for extra days.

Friday July 30, 1965

Liz, Dan and I went canvasing in the morning. We had hand bills announcing mass meetings at St. Paul for <sup>tomorrow</sup> ~~tonight~~ and Morning Star for tonight. We ent out again in the early afternoon when a car came to take us to the outlying areas of Troy. Tonight at Morning Star there were about sixty people and we took up our first collection of \$ .

✓ Saturday July 31, 1965

We all canvased the community with handbills about registration day, and the mass meeting tonight at St. Paul church. We went out about mid afternoon again with hand bills about the registration day on monday and the following days of.

had to say. If had said lets get up and march to jail, I feel they would have done so.

In the rural communities, the whold family comes th the mass meetings. Because of the simplicity of the church and its people, and the strange yet very moving prayer and response cha~~nting~~nting I sometimes feel the twentieth century did'nt come by here.

A car of our very own would be an invaluable aide. Several fellows have been very helpful, but it is not the same as one of our own. Oft times when we are ready for an early start, the drivers are late or sometimes dont show up at all. When they are here bright and early we have something that must be taken care of later in the day. Most of the time we dont get our moneys worth for the gas we buy.



~~registration~~ five days of the week. As a rule our volunteers have been Liz Penn-  
ington, Walters st.: John Henry Reynolds, 412E. Gamble St. ( John has been  
staying at the freedom house for a couple of days) and Frances Robinson, 417 Walters  
St. Usually when we canvas, we used the kids in that ~~immediate~~ immediate neighbor-  
hood to help us out. Tonight at St. Paul church, Mrs J. Harrell and Leon Gutherz  
were our speakers. There were about sixty people present and the colléction was  
\$. Leon and John Henry went around to the varous cafes and put up posters  
about the ~~xxxx~~ coming election days.

✓ August 1, 1965

Leon and John attended Shiloh Baptist church, Liz attended E 1st Baptist, and I  
attended Bethel church and a home coming. At all of the varous churches we told  
them about the coming registration, and tried to obtain these churches for meetings.  
Leon went to another county to speak, and John, Liz, and I went to the evening  
service at ~~Bethel~~ Shiloh. Rev Smith said he would hold a meeting to see if the  
majority in the church wanted to let us use the church for a meeting. Rev.  
Harrell called and told Liz to have her bags packed on wednesday and be ready to  
go to Monroe County.

August 2, 1965

At the courthouse things went very smooth. The people were given numbers as they  
came in. They kept the same numbers with them when they finished being processed.  
We took their name, address, city, and the amount of education ~~xxx~~ ~~xxx~~ they had.  
When they came out we checked them off our list whether they passed or failed.  
For the day 47 passed, and 5 failed.

Rev. Harrell took Daniel Thompson to Clayton (Barbour county) Ala. to work.

✓ August 3, 1965

Jonh Henry Reynolds father beat him with an ax handle because of his affiliation  
with us. John now lives at the Scope House. with Leon. At the court house this  
morning all was going well, then Leon left for Clayton where they were preparing



to march to the court house. After Leon left, the registrars slowed down to a snails pace, and ~~sixteen failing~~ failed about seven in a row. One of the last people they failed was a college graduate. There were a few unfriendly words exchanged between the registra and the Scope workers, and finally Leon arrived. Leon was told the whole story and he talked with Mr Gilchrist, and Judge Reeves again. Today 42 passed and 14 failed

Meanwhile we had to have our lunch at the drug stores down town, and so far all has gone well. Today we went to Byrd's.

Tonight we had the best meeting since we have been here. The speakers were our volunteers, John H. Reynolds; Ethel Brooks from Camden; and Leon . There were about one hundred people packed in the church and the collection was \$ Mrs Harrell and Jim came to take Elizabeth Shamburger back with them. Pat Sweeney took a plane for Los Angeles, Calif. today.

#### Wednesday 4, 1965

Early this morning handbills were given out about the mass meeting at Bethel church. The day went very smooth at the court house.

#### Thursday 5, 1965

Today Liz Pennington, and Elaine Warren came down to the court house to help out with the registration. Ethel Brooks came from Camden to speak at our meeting.

After the meeting we elected officers for the new

The officers are: Mrs Johnnie Mae Warren Pres.  
Mr. Charles Stringer Vice Pres.  
Miss Brenda Smith Sec.  
Mr. Charles Terry Tres.

We Scope workers will meet with the new officers and any other people of the community on Monday Aug. 9th at 7:30, to get acquainted and explain exactly what we have been doing and to bring them to the point where they can take over the work.

#### Friday August 6, 1965

Our meeting seem to help, because more people are coming down. The registrars are woking much faster. Today 92 passed and 3 failed. One-hundred & fifty were given numbers



We were all excited about the new ~~RIGHTS~~ Voting Rights Bill.

✓ Saturday August 7, 1965

~~ON~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ This morning at 8:15 there were about fifty people in the in the court room when we arrived. By 10:30 about two hundred people were there. We only gave numbers to those people who could read and write sufficiently well to pass the literacy test. The remainder of the people were asked to be patient. Before the registrars could use the simplified form, they must receive official notice from the state of Alabama. There was no notice on Saturday, and so only those people who could read and write were processed. There were ninety-six registered.

Since the court house is located down town and there are no eating facilities in it, we have been eating in the local downtown drugstores. The first five days there were no incidents, and yesterday two fellows returned to the first drugstore we went to. The manager of the store ~~ask~~ asked John (Negro) to step outside so that the people in the store could get some fresh air. John refused to move. The manager then said his dog would be fed before they would be served. John got angry but the other fellow, Mike, was able to calm him down sufficiently to prevent a scene. The manager proceeded to wait on them after serving everyone in the store.

Sonny Starks, the oldest son of Mrs Starks (pres. of Brundage Civic Club) was fired from his job because he drove those "civil rights workers" around. On Monday he was told he could still have his job, if he wanted to go back. He chose not to go back, and found another job with a Negro carpenter. The pay was better and the hours were shorter.

Sunday August 8, 1965

~~Mr. Warren called and asked Leon to speak in his place at Rev Autry's~~  
Mrs Warren asked Leon to go to Ozark Ala to see if he could stimulate the people in Ozark to go to the court house and register tomorrow. They went to a Baptist church where a Rev Autry is the minister.



~~church in Hartford (Geneva county) Alabama.~~ <sup>Ozark Dale</sup> I attended services at Bethel church where an announcement was made about Tuesday and Wednesday for voter registration and ~~in~~ now the new law affected us. At a home coming ~~W~~ I made a similar announcement.

↓ Monday August 9, 1965

On his way to Birmingham, Rev Harrell brought Elizabeth Shamburger back to us. The morning was spent canvassing the community with voter registration announcements. That afternoon Leon ran off all the additional announcements we would need for the week. Leon, John, and Mr. Warren drove to Ozark where they received permission to use Rev. Autry's church for a mass meeting on Friday. The Rev. would be at a revival, but would Tuesday August 10, 1965 make sure the church was available for us.

This morning as usual, there were about thirty people at the court house when we arrived. Leon Gutherz left for Birmingham Via Hitch-hiking. We gave out one-hundred ninety numbers, but only one-hundred and thirty seven were processed. Tonight we held our first meeting with the new civic association.

↓ Wednesday August 11, 1965

At the court house we had our usual good turn out in the early A.M. At 10:30 I asked Mr. Gilchrist, the chief registrar, to call Montgomery to get permission for Thursday and Friday registration. He called and was told to expect a reply around 2:00 P.M. At the scheduled time no one called. At 4:00 P.M. one hundred and sixty seven people were registered. Judge Reeves asked to have a conference with John and I along with Mr. Gilchrist. We were told that they were expecting a call from Montgomery at any time just before five o'clock, and they were ~~xxx~~ doing their very best to get those days. If any thing developed, he assured us he would call our office. Judge Reeves called later on to inform us that the extra days for registration had been denied.

During the day our teen volunteers passed out hand-bills announcing a mass meeting at the First Baptist Church for Thursday.



Thursday August 12, 1965

Mr. Warren, our neighbor, drove John, Diane, and Pete to Ozark to pass out hand-bills announcing the mass meeting on Friday, and registration on Monday. They spent a good deal of the morning and early afternoon canvassing in the rain. We had large crowd for the mass meeting at the ~~First~~ First Baptist Church.

Friday August 13, 1965

Friday night on the way down to Ozark we were involved in a three car accident. Mrs Warren, our Driver, had to stop suddenly to prevent a head on collision. We were hit from behind by the car trailing us. Mr. Flowers, from Brundidge was in the car behind us, and he said the car behind him knocked him into us. Luckily no one was injured, but there was extensive car damage to all three automobiles. We arrived in Ozark over an hour late. At the church, we found the doors locked, and there was not a light to be seen in the ministers house directly behind the church. There were no people or cars in the vicinity of the church. ~~HE SAID HE HAD NOT GIVEN US PERMISSION TO USE THE CHURCH.~~ We stopped at the house nearest to the church to inquire if people had come and then gone home. We were told that the minister returned home last night and said he had not given us permission to use the church. He said he could not understand why we would take it upon our selves to make that kind of announcement, and under no circumstances were we to get inside the church ~~or~~ use the lawn. The mayor left word for "those civil-rights workers" to use the city hall if we just had to have a meeting.

We were only able to locate one deacon of that church, and he told us the same story. Every where we went we were told the same story.

Leon met us in Ozark, and we all returned to Troy together.

Saturday August 14, 1965

Early this morning Leon tried to get in touch with the mayor of Ozark